

Francke Huntington Bosworth

November 29, 1875 — April 27, 1949

Francke Huntington Bosworth, Emeritus Professor of Architecture and former Dean of the College of Architecture died, after a prolonged illness, in New York City on April 27, 1949.

Dean Bosworth was born in New York on November 29, 1875, the son of Dr. Francke H. Bosworth and Mary Hildreth Bosworth. After attending the Cutler School and graduating from Yale University in 1897 as Bachelor of Arts, he went on to Paris where he received his formal training in architecture during four years at the Ecole des Beaux Arts. Returning to the United States, he entered professional practice with Frank H. Holden, this association continuing successfully until 1918 when Dean Bosworth left for service in France with the American Red Cross. In the fall of 1919 he came to Cornell as Professor of Design and Dean of the College of Architecture, and served with distinction in both capacities. He relinquished the deanship in 1927 as a result of severe illness. Returning several months later, he resumed his teaching and associated activities until his retirement in 1940.

Dean Bosworth was a man of high ideals, of wide interests and intense and contagious enthusiasm, mentally alert and physically active. He had read widely and traveled extensively; intellectually and socially he was cosmopolitan and mature. He was impatient of sham or pretense and of stodginess or mental inertia, but usually this quality was tempered by a ready sense of humor. Though thoroughly schooled professionally in the classic tradition, and never hesitating to champion its educational disciplines, he was essentially liberal in thought and action. In his teaching as a critic in architectural design, his professional abilities and stimulating personality made him outstandingly effective and also highly respected and popular with his students.

In the years just following the first World War, when he was the administrative head of the College of Architecture, several significant changes were made in the organization and functioning of the College. The curriculum was extended to five years, Cornell being the first of the schools of architecture to take this step. A substantial thesis was made a requirement for graduation. The curriculum leading to the degree in Fine Arts was introduced. The department of Landscape Architecture was transferred from the College of Agriculture to that of Architecture. Physical accommodations were expanded and improved. Though the wisdom of some of these actions was questioned at the time, all have long since proved their soundness, and to Dean Bosworth's foresight and energy can be attributed a major share of the credit for their adoption.

His publications were few, but one should be noted. About 1930, the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, with the support of the Carnegie Corporation, undertook a survey of the status of professional training in architecture in the United States and Canada, and to Professor Bosworth, collaborating with Professor Roy Childs Jones of the University of Minnesota, was entrusted the laborious and delicate task of obtaining the necessary information and drafting the report. During the fall and winter of 1930-31 they visited forty-nine of the fifty-eight schools at that time accredited by the state and provincial licensing authorities. The report was a model, comprehensive and penetrating, yet tactful and readable.

Dean Bosworth was a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, a past Director of the Beaux Arts Institute of Design, past President of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, a member of the New York State Board of Examiners and Registration of Architects, and of the Architectural Advisory Council of Cornell University. He was also a member of Tau Beta Pi, Phi Kappa Phi, Psi Upsilon, and the Century and University Clubs of New York City.

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